

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-9 are pending in this application. By this Supplemental Amendment, claim 2 is amended for clarification purposes only, and not to overcome the prior art rejections. Reconsideration in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Hinze and Supervisory Examiner Hirshfeld during the April 27 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

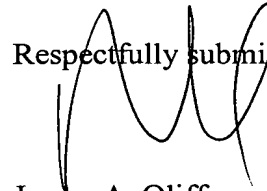
Specifically, claim 2 is amended to comply with a proposed amendment presented to the Examiners during the personal interview. After reviewing the proposed amendment to claim 2, the Examiners agreed that the amendment would overcome the objection in the February 11, 2004 Office Action. Thus, Applicants request that the objection to claim 2 under 37 C.F.R 1.75(c) be withdrawn.

The Examiners also agreed during the April 27 personal interview that the March 25 Amendment overcomes the prior art rejections in the February 11, 2004 Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6 and 8-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Richard S. Elias
Registration No. 48,806

JAO:RSE/dap

Date: April 27, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 24-0037</p>
--